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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 28 | Min 17 | Humidity 56% Clear with periodic clouds Sensex 57,491 | Nifty 17,149 | Gold 48,432 | Silver 63,864 | Dollar 74.60 | Euro 84.27 | GBP 100.51

NEED AN RT-PCR TEST? YOU'VE TO WAIT IT OUT PAGE 2

TREACHEROUS TEXT: DOC LOSES OVER RS 1 LAKH PAGE 5

Highest number of covid-19 cases in Bellandur ward in 18-45 age group — 2,975 cases reported in females and 2,611 in males

COVID WARD

8,004 cases in Bellandur ward in 14 days

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The number of covid-19 cases in Karnataka is on a surge: Sunday saw the highest rise, where cases reported crossed the 50,000 mark.

As Bengaluru Urban continues to report a high number of cases amongst the districts, Bellandur ward, (ward no.150) reported the highest number of cases in BBMP limits. In the past 14 days alone, the ward has reported over 8,004 cases.

Going by the data from the Bellandur ward decentralised triage and emergency response committee for covid-19 management, from January 10 to 23, the ward reported 8,004 cases.

Among the 8,004 cases, some positive cases in the ward arrived from other states, wards and zones. 7,316 cases were in active home isolation, while 49 were moved to the hospital, and a few to covid care centres. Surprisingly, the Bellandur ward decentralised committee found 78 cases of individuals who breached home isolation and remained unreachable during the covid-positive period.

From January 9 to 15, the daily cases reported have been less than 500, but from January 16, the daily numbers reported in the ward crossed 500 and above. For instance, on January 16, 609 cases were reported, followed by 661 on January 17, 778 cases reported on January 18 and 801 on January 19. Over 874 cases were reported the next day, January 20, which was the highest of single day cases, however, after which a slight drop to 709 cases was reported on January 21 and 620 cases on January 22. January 23 saw an increase again, with 796 cases reported.

Officials cited increased domestic and international travel in the ward for the rise in the number of cases. "Majority of the positive cases reported are the ones who have domestic or international travel history. Looking at the higher number of cases reported in the ward,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

High Court being sanitised and fumigated on Sunday

"Bellandur has software companies; many are going to work places and getting infected... most of the citizens live in apartment complexes here..."

— Arvind Limbavali, MLA

Wheels of misfortune

Police book youths performing stunts on vehicles 'to make impressive videos for social media'

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TWEETS @Bellie_MIRROR

The Bangalore Traffic Police (BTP) in a special drive over the past week booked around 20 cases of 'wheelie stunts' and three cases of drag races. The cops seized over 23 vehicles including three four-wheelers from the city.

Traffic police sources said that almost all the accused riders are in the age group of 17 to 22 — inclined to impress peers by videographing vehicle stunts and posting them on social media to get more followers and become influencers.

"Upon questioning the accused riders — most of them energetic youths — confessed that they have been looking for lean traffic timings and good roads where they can perform stunts and not only make impressive videos, but can also avoid peak traffic; not to be a disturbance/nuisance to other fellow road users," said Kuldeep Kumar Jain, deputy commissioner of police, traffic (West).

"We have booked cases under the Indian Motor Vehicles Act and seized the vehicles from the accused who have to pay up the fine and reclaim the vehicles. There are a few minors as well whose parents have been summoned; their children have been booked under section 107 of the CrPC.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 America in cartoons

If cartoons are your way to de-stress, check out Indian Institute of Cartoonists's showcase: America in cartoons, from Bill to Biden, an exhibition of cartoons and caricatures by New York-based cartoonist Shreyas Navare. The exhibition comprises 101 cartoons and caricatures drawn spanning five US Presidents from 1998 to 2022. This exhibition also includes artworks from Shreyas Navare's travels across various US states for his coverage of the 2012 and 2016 US Presidential Elections through the eyes of a cartoonist.

Where: Indian Cartoon Gallery, Craig Park Layout
When: January 31 - February 12 **Contact:** 7019138680/ 9886051512

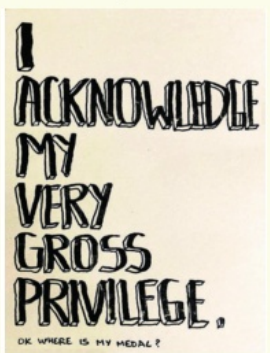
02 Get creative, folks

Learn sketching and pencil-shading for beginners. If you've been planning to get creative and make use of your free time, these weekend online sessions are the perfect opportunity. You can also get your kids to join in for a fun experience.

Where: Zoom
When: Till Feb 27, 12pm – 1pm, (Sat and Sun)
For more info: Rs 3,500 per person (12 sessions)

03 Thoughts, handwritten

Imagine receiving a letter from an anonymous sender. Imagine replying to this letter. An exchange that takes place by India post. See-Saw – a collaborative initiative by Sandbox Collective and supported by Goethe-Institut / Max Mueller Bhavan Bangalore -- began as an exercise to see how we engage with the idea of the 'other'. This was an attempt to collectively reflect on themes of identity, prejudice, people and communities, and the results will be out on a website. The portal will have the 80+ artistic responses, notes and letters that were born from this exchange, courtesy the A 10-week artistic exchange between anonymously paired Bengaluru-based artists via snail mail.



Where: sandboxcollective.org/see-saw
When: Ongoing

Need an RT-PCR test? You've to wait it out

Bengaluru reports a massive spike in demand for RT-PCR tests — especially at home

Shreyashi Mukherjee
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TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

With the surge in covid cases in the city, there is once more a spike in RT-PCR tests, because of which, personnel are overwhelmed with the workload. Bengalureans who want to get a Covid test are complaining that there is a long waiting period just to get a RT-PCR test done at home.

Nijesh RG, 24, a resident of Kirloskar Layout, said: "I used the self-testing kit and found out on Friday that I am covid-positive; however, my office wanted me to produce an RT-PCR report to grant me leave.

"I called a few of the hospitals to check if someone could collect my sample from my home as I did not want to go out in this situation, but they said that they were busy. I finally had to go to the hospital."

Deepa A, 26, housewife, living in Dasarahalli said: "I have been having a cold and cough for the past few days, so I wanted to take an RT-PCR test. When I called to get my sample collected at home, they said I had to go to the hospital as they did not have anyone present at that moment."

Health workers conduct RT-PCR tests and collect samples in different parts of the city

"Today we are touching close to 4,000 tests per day and the positivity rate has increased to 41 per cent
–Dr Sujay Prasad, Medical Director, Nuberg Diagnostics

The diagnostic centres are witnessing a major spike in the number of tests that are being done per day for the last two months.

"Till the middle of December, we were doing approximately 800 tests per day, and these were mainly travellers, and the positivity rate was about 2 per cent. Today we are touching close to 4,000 tests per day and the positivity rate has increased to 41 per cent," said Dr Sujay Prasad, Medical Director, Nuberg Diagnostics.

Out of the people who were getting themselves tested, many were asymptomatic as well as people who were anxious to know their status. The staff of the diagnostic centres often test positive for the virus while they are on duty and have to stay at home.

This has led to an increase in the workload as the strength of the staff gets reduced to half and they have to do twice the amount work.

"Unlike the second wave when out of 600 of our staff, only 35 were infected; this time, more than 50 per cent were infected. That is what is causing a bit of a challenge," added Dr Sujay.

Dr Srinivas Neela, Director and CEO, Book My Diagnostics, also mentioned the increased demand for RT-PCR testing. He said, "Compared to December, there has been a 100 per cent to 200 per cent increase in the demand for RT-PCR testing."

He agreed that due to the surge in the demand for the RT-PCR test, it is not possible for the staff to go to every house and collect the samples. "Whenever we get any increase in the workload, we take our network partner into the loop and get the work done," added Dr Srinivas.

While getting slots for RT-PCR tests are taking long hours, people are switching to self-testing kits as it takes less amount of waiting and the results also appear within a short period of time.

Vinay K, 28, working in Health Care Pharmacy said, "In the month of January, the demand for self-test kits have increased by 50 per cent.

"Every day, at least three to four people are buying the self-testing kits."

Covid cases explode in Ballari, Mandya

As many as 37 Covid cases have been reported on Monday from Krishnadevaraya University in Nandihalli Post-Graduation Centre in Sandur taluk, Ballari district. According to university sources, the test results of many more students are yet to come.

The authorities sealed a paying guest facility in the campus following the Covid outbreak. Meanwhile, 40 Covid-positive cases were reported from the Government Junior College in Srirangapatna town of Mandya district.

Authorities said that four faculty members have also caught the infection. The college has been closed till January 26.

Overall, Ballari reported 904 new Covid cases in the last 24 hours and there are 5,773 active cases in the district. The district has seen 1,690 deaths so far.

Ahead of Republic Day celebrations, armed personnel get swabbed for testing

Mandya is one of the districts registering more than 1,000 cases each day in the state

Mandya is one of the districts registering more than 1,000 cases every day in the state. As many as 1,455 Covid cases have been reported since the last 24 hours against 520 discharges. The total active cases stand at 7,711. Till date, there have been 661 deaths in the district.

The district reported a spate of Covid cases last week after the return of thousands of devotees from Tamil Nadu who went on a pilgrimage to Om Shakthi temple.

–IANS

Doddabettahalli's PHC is in need of intensive care

Residents forced to go to private hospitals which are far and unaffordable; Palike not bothered, they complain

Melvin Mathew
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TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

Residents living in Doddabettahalli are deprived of enjoying the facilities of a government hospital nearby. The residents, economically disadvantaged, have been forced to seek aid from private hospitals for the past three years.

The government hospital here was a source of medical help for many families but it was shut down. Without the Primary Healthcare Centre (PHC), residents are forced to enter private hospitals, to avail help they can barely afford, and sometimes they cannot afford health care at all. Their other resort is to travel to PHCs located in places like Yelahanka, but travelling to these locations involves spending on transport again.

The hospital here remained shut even when Covid was at its peak. Those that had the money, walked into private hospitals due to dire need and those that didn't have the funds rested at home, without medical help.

"When Covid was at its peak, it was very difficult for us. We didn't have much of an option. If we had money, we would go to the hospital or we would have to just stay at home. Some would take loans for hospital expenses and some would try to cut their hospital visits by half," said Tabrak, a resident.

"We don't have a government hospital in the vicinity. There is a small private hospital nearby where we are forced to go. These private hospitals are pretty expensive and we cannot afford to pay even Rs 1,000 for the bills," added Tabrak, who is a carpenter.

Another resident, Anjanappa, observed that there were only a few cases in their area, but around 10 died as they could not be hospitalised.

"We have submitted multiple requests with the authorities concerned, including BBMP, but we have not received a solution. We have been trying our best to help the community and have been encouraging them to get vaccinated," added Anjanappa, who is also a social worker.

Shutters down: The closed PHC (above) forces residents to travel many a mile for basic healthcare facilities

> **These private hospitals are pretty expensive and we cannot afford to pay even Rs 1,000 for the bills**
>
> – Tabrak, a carpenter

The vaccination drive is reportedly being conducted in an open field under a tent as the hospital is closed.

The closest PHCs are located in Yelahanka, Attur and Malleswaram. "How can they expect daily-wage earners like us to spend so much on transportation to get basic health facilities? We would need to take an auto or travel via multiple buses and the expenses would amount to at least Rs 200 or 300," said Kalandar, an NGO worker and resident.

Noticing the dilapidated condition of the PHC, local leaders of the Aam Aadmi Party cleaned the place up. According to sources, plans to convert the PHC into a home for the destitute are being discussed.

"They have to reopen the PHC. They spent Rs 30 lakh to establish it. We do not want any other facility here other than a hospital. If we are given a hospital with a doctor, it will be sufficient for us," added Kalandar.

More direct flights to San Francisco, Seattle

Shreya BN
mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

Bengaluru will soon have additional flights directly connecting to San Francisco and Seattle as United Airlines and American Airlines are expected to commence operations in 2022 to San Francisco and Seattle, respectively.

Japan Airlines started flights under the Air Bubble arrangement between Bengaluru-Tokyo Narita from March 2021. Now, the airline plans to increase frequency once the restrictions on international travel are relaxed. In January, Air India commenced the twice-a-week, non-stop Bengaluru-San Francisco service. Currently, Bengaluru is the first in South and Central India to have a direct connectivity to North America.

There has been an increase in domestic flights from Bengaluru as well. In 2021, the number of domestic destinations increased from 54 (pre-covid) to 74. Around 14 new routes were introduced from Bengaluru to Agra, Bareilly, Dibrugarh, Dimapur, Nashik, Silchar, Jamnagar, Jharsuguda, Jorhat, Jaisalmer, Kurnool, Rajkot, Durgapur and Kanpur. The Karnataka International Airport (KIA) currently serves 20 international destinations under the Government of India's Air Bubble arrangement.

Officials from the airport said that the increased pace of vaccination has played its part in increasing travel. With the gradual easing of curbs by various state governments, domestic passenger traffic recorded a double-digit growth of 22 per cent, an upswing from 12.39 million in 2020 to 15.12 million in 2021. On the international front, Dubai, Male, Doha, London, and Frankfurt were the top cities, contributing 70 per cent of international traffic from Bengaluru.

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Citizens take charge

Ward committees yield great power with say in budget allocation; will they implement it wisely?

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

After Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) allotted Rs 60 lakhs to each ward, citizens seem to be making considerable progress in utilising the budget to meet the needs of their locality. But with citizens at the helm, a question arises: Will the implementation of these projects be as smooth?

After the allocation of funds, 9,000 citizens sent budget inputs for the MyCityMyBudget campaign (a Janaagraha initiative). BBMP decided to allocate Rs 60 lakh to each of the 197 wards and granted them the power to allocate the budget.

"Details on where the money is used are available with the ward engineer for each ward committee. Janaagraha is taking up the Footpath Walkability Survey with citizens to help prioritise work. The works to be done will be decided as per the inputs submitted by citizens in the ward committee," said BBMP Special Commissioner (Finance) Thulasi Maddineni.

As phase II of the campaign commences, Jannagraha is working with ward committees to prioritise footpaths that need to be developed. A walkability survey was conducted in six wards along with Jana Urban Space Foundation, Sensing Local and citizens. The walkability score was measured under four parameters: accessibility, connectivity, safety and comfort.

People are now able to take part in local governance actively, which has facilitated greater transparency in budget allocation. However, the effective and timely execution of these plans is yet to be seen.

A pic of Coles Road under restoration. Ward commitees can now allocate funds for such projects as they see fit

BBMP allocated Rs 60 lakh to each ward, but some say it is not enough to fix all problems

In a survey conducted by Janaagraha, it was noted that 100 per cent of the respondents believed citizens must participate in ward committees. When asked about the major hurdles, 42 per cent leaned towards not taking actions based on ward committee decisions and 28 per cent voted against holding meetings regularly.

Some citizens also felt that Rs 60 lakh was not adequate for their ward. "This is a great beginning but we hope that BBMP will allocate a larger budget that can be utilised by our ward," said Jagadish Reddy, co-founder of Varthur Rising.

V Ravichandar, an urban expert, said, "Monitoring what projects are taken on is critical."

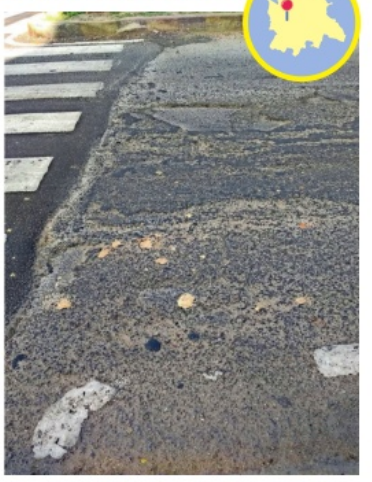
"Through ward committees, we can get contact numbers of the right departments and call them when an issue arises. During weekends, we do walks in our ward and when we see a black spot, we immediately take a picture and share it with the SWM group which includes BBMP officials. Then the issue is resolved," said Swarupa Kakumanu from Gottigere ward.

Srinivas Alavilli, head of civic participation, Janaagraha, said, "With decision making powers regarding budget allocation, citizens yield more power to hold the authorities accountable for the implementation of projects."

whatsapp MIRROR
9591233247

Problems in your area?
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

Worn out
Nagarabhavi Circle



This road is in a damaged state due to constant use and heavy traffic. It is a major junction and must be repaired soon.

Hold your horses
Nayandahalli Main Road

Folks have been dumping debris from construction works at this spot. It is used to keep horses too; the waste materials could harm the animals.

Rough road
Bangalore University

This stretch in Jnanabharati Campus need to be repaired.

NATIONAL CONSUMER DISPUTES REDRESSAL COMMISSION
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Upbhokta Nyay Bhawan 'F'- Block, General Pool Office Complex, INA, NEW DELHI-110023
Telephone No.: 011-24608801-04 Fax No.: 011-24651505

Consumer Case No. 1208/2019
WITH
IA/10654/2021
CHRYSOLITE VILLA OWNERS ASSOCIATION.
...Petitioner/Appellant
Versus
M/S. KRISTAL PROJECTS (INDIA) LTD. & 13 ORS
...Opposite Party/ Respondent (s)

Consumer Case No. 1209/2019
WITH
IA/10655/2021
CHRYSOLITE VILLA OWNERS ASSOCIATION.
...Petitioner/Appellant
Versus
M/S. KRISTAL PROJECTS (INDIA) LTD. & 13 ORS
...Opposite Party/ Respondent (s)

To

Opposite Party / Respondent Name:

1. M/S. KRISTAL PROJECTS (INDIA) LTD.
   No.1,4th Cross, 29th Main BTM-II Stage, Bangalore- 560103.
1. (a). M/S. KRISTAL PROJECTS (INDIA) LTD.
   No.13, Kristal Tavern, Ambalipura Village, Bellandur Post, Outer Ring Road, Bangalore - 560037.
2. MRS. LATHA K. NAMBOODIRI,
   No.1,4th Cross, 29th Main BTM-II Stage, Bangalore- 560103.

Notice

TAKE NOTICE THAT the matter above mentioned will be listed for hearing before the Hon'ble Bench No.1 of the National Commission on **18 May, 2022 at 10.30 A. M** instead of 18.01.2022.

Dated on this 13 January 2022

Sd/-
Section Officer

GoK revokes rule to make Kannada mandatory for UG

The state government has revoked the decision to make Kannada a mandatory language course for undergraduate students.

As per the new order, students who do not want to study the local language will not be forced to do so until further orders from the High Court. The decision has been taken against the backdrop of an interim order by the High Court in this regard.

Following the order, students who have already signed up for the course can also choose to take up a language of their choice instead. Their attendance will be adjusted for the new language course they pick.

The circular, dated January 21, is addressed to all vice chancellors and registrars of public and private universities. Principals of aided and unaided colleges have also been issued directions in this regard.

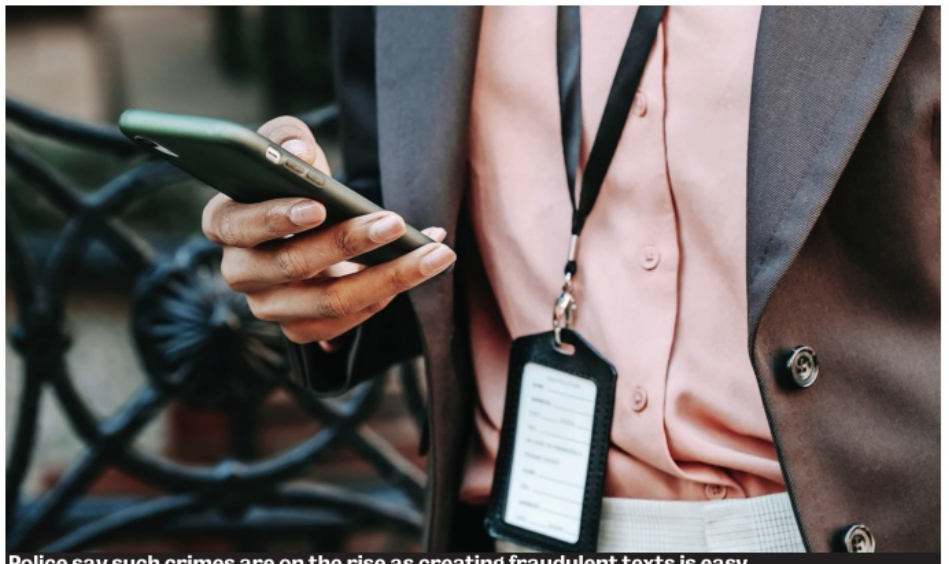
The state government, on August 7, made learning Kannada compulsory for students who take up graduation courses in the state. The government maintained that the order is in line with implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP). The government has asked students who have not learned Kannada in school to study basic Kannada for one semester.

Students who have already signed up for Kannada too, can choose a language of their choice instead

The Samskrita Bharati (Karnataka) Turst, other three organisations and five students have filed petitions challenging the government order. The High Court had earlier opined that the state government, at this stage, must not insist on making the language compulsory. The court further stated that students who do not wish to learn Kannada language will not be compelled to pursue learning the language until further orders. **-IANS**

Treachery over text

Doctor loses over ₹1L after speaking to fraudsters about a fake SMS for phone service firm asking him to update documentation



Police say such crimes are on the rise as creating fraudulent texts is easy

Pragna L Krupa
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Time was when short message services (SMS) were used as a nifty way of communication. But now, cybercrooks seem to be making better use of this mode of communication too. For the cheats, it is much easier to frame fraudulent texts claiming it is from service providers and cheat people. In a recent case, an 84-year-old doctor who received a message to provide documents to update the SIM card from a fraudulent SMS, fell prey to a crook and lost Rs. 1.5 lakh.

Police say that the cyber criminals can easily hide the sender contact number by using various tools and softwares and spoof it to look like being sent from auto generated systems.

Dr. P, a resident of Richmond Road, filed a complaint with the Central CEN police on the very day of the incident. He told Bangalore Mirror he was having breakfast when he received a message that he believed was from his mobile network service provider stating that he had to immediately update his documents, failing which his service would be discontinued. "I showed it to my daughter-in-law. She read it and told me that I had to contact and check with the person whose contact number was shared along with the SMS. It looked like an official message from the company," he said.

Please note

- Don't respond to texts from unknown senders
- Do not share personal info online
- Do not follow instructions from unknown persons over a call
- Do not download unknown applications as criminals can take control of the mobile or system remotely
- For any queries, visit the office closest to you and call customer care number found on the company's official website

The doctor called the person and was told to install an application through which they could help him to update the documents. "We downloaded the application and followed their instructions and they asked me to credit Rs. 10 to the wallet as a recharge amount. We transferred the money and the person asked me for some code which was on my phone and even before I realised, Rs. 1,46,500 was debited from my bank account and I received messages from my bank," he said. When Dr P asked the caller what had transpired, he hung up after which the doctor immediately called the bank and froze further transactions.

> **"The person asked me for some code from my phone and before I realised, ₹1,46,500 was debited from my account** –Victim

After filing the complaint, he learnt that the amount had been transferred to a club in a small city in North India.

Police said that this was turning out to be a common crime.

"They convince them that they are from a particular service provider and would find out several ways to loot money. They use applications to create messages and send it to several people with various claims. Some say they are from insurance companies, mobile companies, job offers and many," said an officer.

Harrassed to withdraw plaint?

A woman who had filed a complaint with the Yelahanka New Town police station after a cop allegedly flashed at her has alleged that she is being harassed by unknown persons to pressurise her into withdrawing her complaint.

The accused Chandrashekar, a police constable who was drunk, is accused of flashing at the woman on December 21. He was suspended and disciplinary action was taken.

The woman told BM that after she filed a complaint she has been regularly receiving calls from unknown people asking her to withdraw the case and reach a compromise. She said, "The video of the incident had gone viral and the person who shot the video is also asking me to withdraw the case. His mother told me they are being pressured by the accused. Many unknown persons are coming near my house and are speaking to my friends and neighbours asking them to tell me to withdraw the case. Through them the accused is threatening to commit suicide."

She added that she has been receiving calls from unknown numbers messaging her randomly asking her to share her photos and trying to make intimate talks with her. She has given a written complaint to the city police commissioner Kamal Pant requesting action. —Pragna L Krupa

A number for your property

The revenue department is planning to implement the Unified Land Management System (ULMS). This will generate a Unique Land Parcel Identification Number (UL PIN), similar to Aadhaar, and record all documents under it. When all the documents of the land are available in one place, landowners can easily look for documents. This will also prevent the creation of fake documents and selling fake documents. Many departments are involved in managing one land, which creates opportunities for fraudsters to create fake documents and cheat people. Once the new system is in place, Karnataka will be the first state to implement it.

The government has records of encroachments of lakhs of acres of revenue, forest, agriculture, and non-agricultural lands. There are many cases where lands have been sold and pledged with fake documents. This issue has been discussed in assembly sessions many times. The government is preparing to resolve the issue and the department of personnel and administrative reforms (e-administration) has taken the responsibility to implement the system. The purpose of the system is to provide a unique ID for every land parcel and record all processes with that number. Once the system is in place, the public can view the status of the land through the portal.

Unique Land Parcel Id No. is slated to make all papers available in one place

This unified land management system will not downgrade the powers of the statutory officials. The officials of various departments will exercise the powers given to them. The purpose is to bring efficiency to the system.

Additional Chief Secretary to the Centre e-Governance Rajeev Chawla said, "This will be a full-fledged system to avoid land disputes and bring transparency to the process of land information and processes."

This system will help receive the encumbrance certificate while selling land and applying for loans. It will help prevent the creation of fake records on any land. It will provide ownership information, limits of the village and town and information about whether it is an agricultural land or converted land. It will also help in data transfer. —Prakash VL

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Covid-19 cases highest in Bellandur ward

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

we have increased the number of tests to track and trace the patients at an early stage. Currently we are carrying out testing even higher than the daily testing targets set in the ward. The idea is to catch the cases at an early stage so that they are treated early, to prevent the spread of infection," said Dr Thrilok Chandra, BBMP health commissioner and zonal commissioner in Mahadevapura.

The data suggested increased testing, from conducting 700-900 test samples per day between 9-13 January, the numbers of tests per day increased between 900-1,400 from 14-23 January.

However, some officials pointed out that citizens were taking the new variant lightly, though it said to have higher transmissibility; the infection remains low and hence people do not seem to care much. "People are found hosting parties in apartment complexes. Most of them are aware that the third wave has been mild so far and hence they are dropping their guard too soon and not following social distancing measures. Meanwhile some said they are vaccinated and there is nothing to worry as they wouldn't get into a severe stage of the illness. Many do not even want to follow containment measures; they question why we are imposing restrictions," said a government official from Mahadevapura.

The localities in ward no. 150 that saw the highest number of cases in the past 14 days are Bellandur with 1,391 cases, 1,108 cases reported in Doddakannelli, 915 cases recorded in Kasavanahalli, 860 cases posted in Devarabisanahalli, alongside 774 cases in Haralur, and 439 cases in Kaikondrahalli.

> **"Most of the citizens in Bellandur live in apartment complexes. If one moves around in a community, uses the same floor, lift or other indoor areas, there is a high chance of infection spreading**

Another factor contributing to high numbers in Bellandur was the many software companies located in the ward, and many individuals working from offices.

"Bellandur ward has software companies, many people are going to their workplaces, and are getting infected. Secondly, in Bellandur there is high community living, where most of the citizens live in apartment complexes. If one moves around in a community, uses the same floor, lift or other indoor areas, there is a high chance of infection spreading. Bellandur has the highest case numbers, and we are watching over it to keep it under control," Mahadevapura MLA Arvind Limbavali said.

The highest number of cases reported in Bellandur were amongst the 18-45 age category where 2,975 cases were reported in females in the past 14 days, and 2,611 in males.

A doctor part of the state's genomic sequencing committee said: "Optional booster dose for citizens aged 18-60 (if not mandatory) is the need of the hour. Globally, national regulatory authorities have issued emergency use authorisations for nearly 22 covid-19 vaccines. US FDA & CDC, UK-NHS and EU Health have all opened booster doses after six months for individuals 18 years of age and above; mix and match of booster jabs helps the immune system. It would be useful to consider imports of these to open up the booster dose for the 18-60 age group who are most socially and economically active, so that the burden on health workers would be minimised, raising hopes of averting a future crisis."

Stunts on wheels 'to impress peers'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The parents were not only warned, but asked to submit a surety for their children that in the future, they shall not repeat such offenses," the DCP explained.

Some of the accused riders confessed to the cops that they were performing the stunts to impress upon their girlfriends, and a few others for adrenaline kicks and that they had taken it as a challenge.

The West police alone registered 11 cases of wheelie stunts over the past one week; around seven cases during the recent weekend alone when the curfew was relaxed.

"During questioning, the youths admitted to the cops that they have been going around finding nice stretches of roads with minimal traffic and were randomly planning their stunts and drag races," joint commissioner (traffic) BR Ravikanthe Gowda told Bangalore Mirror.

The riders check for lean traffic, usually around 2:00 to 3:00 pm, or 10:00 to 10.30 pm when the night curfew comes into effect, to perform the stunts. However, there are several police informers who immediately report such stunts to the police in no time.

Traffic policemen from Malleswaram, Jalahalli, Basavanagudi, KS Layout, Rajajinagar, Peenya, Halasuru, Indiranagar, Frazer town, Banaswadi, KR Puram, Hebbal, Yelahanka, and Chikkajala received information from the members of general public that youths were engaging in wheelie stunts.

"At Basavanagudi, a youth on a Vespa scooter was performing wheelie stunts on the National College flyover around 8.30 pm in busy traffic and somehow escaped from the traffic police deployed at the junctions. However, we managed to check the CCTV footage and identify the vehicle; the rider was booked. A surety was obtained from his family so that he does not repeat the offense again," said Kuldeep Kumar Jain.

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WE Karthik.M & Annapoorna A R/at #52, 5th Mn Gattigere Lyt, Halagevaderahalli, BEML 3rd stg Rajarajeshwari Ngr Blore – 98 have changed our minor son's Name from CHIRAYUSH.K (born on 31-08-2018) to CHARVIK GOWDA K vide affidavit dated 24-01-2022 at Bangalore.

I, Mohana Krishnan V S/O, Vasanthakumar R/o No.11, Ranichennamma St, Vijaya shree Lt, Hulimavu Gate, B.G. Road, Bangalore - 560076 have changed my name to Mohana Krishnan Vasanthakumar for all purposes.

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Stop! For cud's sake

Docs sound caution on plastic-filled waste dumps after operating on sick cow to find 55 kg waste in its stomach

Iffath Fathima
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Vets say while eating wet waste from the garbage dumps, cows end up inadvertently eating plastic

When a pregnant cow at a goshala in Vijaynagar stopped eating, its caretakers figured something was not right. A few days ago a cow at Nandipura goshala had died and when a team of veterinarians in Vijaynagar conducted a post-mortem, they were shocked by what they found. The cow had over 50 kg of waste material that included plastic in its stomach, which had ended up causing its death.

With this background, the vetenarians operated upon the sick pregnant cow and found a similar situation. They have removed 55 kg of plastic from the cow, after performing a five-hour-long surgery. The waste in the cow's stomach included plastic covers, nails, needles. However due to the efforts of the vets, both the pregnant cow and the fetus are alive and recovering post the surgery.

Discomfort

The pregnant cow was finding it difficult to urinate or defecate. The cow was also seen kicking its stomach frequently and it had stopped eating. The swamiji at the goshala alerted the vets, who decided to perform a surgery. Taking a call to perform a surgery on the pregnant cow was a challenge, as it could be dangerous to the mother or the fetus. However, the vets from the Department of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Sciences in Hagaribomanahalli taluk, decided to go for it to at least save the mother cow and not let it die like the other cow.

> **"A five-hour-long surgery was needed to remove the waste. The waste had blocked the intestine**
>
> –Dr Pramod Shekari

The surgery was performed through the left flank method, where the vets reached the rumen of the cow. The rumen is the largest stomach compartment and consists of several sacs. It can hold 25 gallons or more of material depending on the size of the cow. The surgery was performed on local anaesthesia. What they saw during the surgery left them in a shock.

Dr. Pramod Shekari Veterinary Officer, Hagaribomanahalli, said, "Many plastic covers, plastic containers were accumulated in the stomach. They were footwears, nails, needles and pins. As these cows are loitering around the streets, they end up going to the garbage spots and look for eatables. With eating some of the leafy things in the garbage, they unknowingly even consume the other waste which gets stored in their stomach."

With the huge portion of waste accumulated, the fetus movement had also got limited, which would be problematic for its growth and the mother cow would face problems, if the surgery wouldn't have been performed. "We thought we will have to save the pregnant cow first. It took us five hours to do the surgery to remove the waste. The waste had blocked the intestine, and it was difficult for the cow to defecate. While performing the surgery, the fetus remained unaffected and the surgery was successful. Currently the cow is under post operative care and is recovering well," said Dr Shekari.

The other two vets who were part of the surgery were Dr. Prashnanth Gowda, Senior Veterinary Officer Hagaribomanahalli Ballary and Dr. Karan Hosamani, Veterinary Officer. They pointed out that one needs to practise proper garbage disposal system. "Dumping garbage on the streets could cause a threat to the animals. Many other animals would have died this way with the reason of death being unidentified," they said.

They also pointed out that there is a need to set up more goshalas to shift these animals there, where proper care, food and space is given to the animals.

Karnataka to get its 6th tiger reserve

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Camera traps at Male Mahadeshwara Sanctuary help count tigers

Karnataka will soon have its sixth tiger reserve at MM Hills. Sources said that the Centre has given approval in principle and a notification will be issued soon. The tiger census began at Bandipur on Saturday, in Nagarahole on Sunday and will be held at BRT on January 27. Due to the census, the 6 am safari has been cancelled between January 23 and 25 and January 27 and February 1.

The fifth tiger census in Nagarahole was organised in Nagarahole with the Monitoring System for Tigers: Intensive Protection and Ecological Status app. The census is being taken in two phases. Due to Covid-19, no volunteers are helping organise the census, but 300 employees of the forest department are conducting it.

In the first stage, the staff will walk five km each day in 91 beats and view the animals, recording their footsteps, faeces, urine, voice, border identification, etc., in the app.

The census includes collection of data on herbivores, including elephants, gaurs and other animals, apart from tigers. Forest guards have been equipped with personal digital assistants and GPS devices to capture data regarding tiger sightings, deaths, wildlife crime and ecological observations. The staff have been trained by experts from the Wildlife Institute of India. The census will end on February 8 at Bandipur. It will be taken up in 112 beats, divided into three blocks.

> **"In 2018, Karnataka had 524 tigers. In Nagarahole there is one tiger every 12 km**
>
> – D Maheshkumar,
> Head of Tiger Project in Nagarahole

BangaloreMirror
Ministers vie for B'luru Development portfolio
(CM Basavaraj Bommai has the option of retaining the portfolio like his predecessor BSY or giving it to a minister; R Ashoka is currently in charge of Bengaluru

BM's report on August 6, 2021

Bommai to stay Bengaluru in-charge

Sridhar.Vivan
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Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai has retained Bengaluru in charge of the ministry on Monday. Since Bommai took over as CM six months ago, there had been no allocation of district in-charge ministers. The list was out on Monday with Bommai retaining Bengaluru while top contender Revenue Minister R Ashoka has been given a miss.

There were many contenders for Bengaluru district in charge post. While R Ashoka was one of the frontrunners, Minister for Housing V Somanna was also eyeing the post. It is said that many legislators were upset with the functioning of Ashoka. Yelahanka MLA SR Vishwanath who heads the BDA had openly expressed his displeasure stating that

Surprises and upsets galore in Bommai's district in-charge allocations

Ashoka was trying to meddle with BDA affairs. On the other hand, Horticulture Minister Munirathna was batting for Govindarajanagar MLA Somanna.

BJP ministers who had migrated from other parties have seen a change in portfolio and there were many surprises for other districts in charges too. S Nagaraju (popularly known as MTB, he is an MLC and represents Hoskote in Bengaluru Rural) who had Bengaluru rural has been now allocated Chikkaballapur. Chikkaballapur MLA and Health Minister Dr K Sudhakar has been given Bengaluru Rural.

Anand Singh who was instrumental in getting the new Vijayanagar has been given Koppal instead. This angered his supporters who burnt tyres in Hospet in protest. Shivaram Hebbar from Uttara Kannada has been given charge of Haveri. KC Narayana Gowda from Mandya is now in charge of Shivamogga and BC Patil from Haveri is now in charge of Chitradurga.

Even the 'original' BJP party leaders had to face music. KS Eshwarappa (from Shivamogga) has been given Chikkamagaluru while Araga Jnanendra (from Shivamogga) has been given Tumakuru while Halapapa Achar gets Dharwad. Minor Irrigation Minister JC Madhuswamy has not been given any district.

Fishermen back home
Twenty Indian fishermen arrested by Pakistan for allegedly entering into the country's territorial waters were handed over to India through the Wagah border

BangaloreMirror | 8
Tuesday, January 25, 2022
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Meet the young heroes

From dancing on broken glass to negotiating with terrorist, 29 children conferred Bal Puraskar include Mangaluru girl

#NEW DELHI

From dancing on broken glasses to negotiating with terrorists, from fighting an alligator to developing innovative measures to help covid-19 patients, 29 children from across the country were conferred with the Pradhan Mantri Bal Puraskar on Monday for their contribution.

The Bal Puraskar was conferred by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who gave digital certificates to the awardees using blockchain technology developed by IIT Kanpur.

Twenty-nine children, including 14 girls, were awarded in six fields -- innovation, scholastic achievements, sports, arts and culture, social service and bravery. Each awardee received a medal, cash prize of Rs 1,00,000 and a certificate.

Zilla Panchayat CEO honouring Remona Evette Pereira who has been selected for the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar

Mangaluru girl

Remona Evette Pereira, 16, is a young performer of Bharatnatyam and has staged various dance performances on broken glasses, balancing on mud pot and with fire among others.

Her name also finds a mention in the 'Golden Book Of World Record - London 2017', 'India Book Of Record 2017' and 'Bharat Book Of World Record 2017'. Remona was awarded for her excellence in the field of Art and Culture.

Gauri Maheshwari, 13, has not only displayed mastery in calligraphy but has also registered her name in India Book of Records, Asia Book of Records and the International Book of Records as one of the youngest calligraphers. Syed Fateen Ahmed, 13, has won various international piano competitions and is one of the youngest certified Indians to score a distinction in Diploma in Music. Dhritishman Chakraborty, 5, the youngest awardee, can already sing in five languages -Assamese, Sanskrit, Bengali, Hindi and English. He was conferred as the "Youngest Multilingual Singer" by the India Book of Records 2021.

The government awarded 12-year-old Gurugu Himapriya for her immense bravery. During a terrorist attack in February, 2018, at Sunjuwan Mil Camp in Jammu, she kept one of the terrorists engaged in a conversation for four to five hours despite being heavily hit by grenades. She also negotiated with the terrorist and thereby prevented families from becoming targets.

Shivangi Kale is another girl who was awarded for bravery. Less than six years old at the time of the incident, Shivangi's presence of mind saved her sister and mother from electrocution and subsequent death.

Dhiraj Kumar, 14, was awarded for his courageous act of rescuing his younger brother from an alligator in River Gandak, a left bank tributary of the Ganga. While all the other boys accompanying them ran away, Dhiraj fought with the alligator. **-PTI**

What the latest Devas move means for govt's Air India plans

#MUMBAI

The government does not expect the latest move by Devas shareholders to hinder Air India handover to the Tata Group.

Unfazed by the Supreme Court upholding winding up of the company, shareholders of Devas Multimedia will continue to seek seizure of Indian government assets abroad to collect $1.2 billion the firm has been awarded by arbitration tribunals for cancellation of a satellite deal but are open for talks to settle the issue, their counsel said.

"The decision by the Supreme Court does not change anything. The Modi government and the Indian courts cannot rewrite the facts. Their flimsy allegations of fraud will never stand up in courts outside of India," said Matthew D McGill, partner at Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher, and lead counsel for several Devas' shareholders. "A better approach for the Modi government would be to return to the negotiating table, and continue with settlement talks."

Besides securing a freeze on a Paris property of the Indian government, Devas shareholders also have a Canadian court order for seizure of about $23 million that Air India had with IATA.

However the government's Air India plans are on track and the transition is going to happen "very soon", with the earliest target being by the month-end, a Times of India report said, quoting officials.

The board of AirAsia India (AAIPL), in which the Tatas have a 83.7% stake, will meet on Monday. According to sources, while AAIPL and AI Express will be merged, Air India and Vistara (51% owned by Tatas and 49% by Singapore Airline, or SIA) will continue to operate as separate full service carrier (FSC) till SIA agrees to have a merged FSC.

"Things (have been) sorted (out). Closing very soon," top government sources told TOI on Sunday when asked if the decision of Devas Multimedia shareholders despite the Supreme Court recently winding up the company will delay AI's handover.

"We have already entered liens or obtained seizure and garnishment orders on tens of millions of dollars in Indian state assets. We will continue to identify and seize state assets wherever we find them until India returns in good faith to the negotiating table," a spokesperson for Devas Multimedia said Sunday.

Air India handover is likely to carry on smoothly

Meanwhile, the Tata Group has begun a "train the trainer" program under which selected employees are being trained about the Tata ethos, work culture. The trained will, in turn, train their colleagues. "One key thing being told is that unlike a PSU where seniority decides who will be the boss, AI employees should be prepared to work under someone who could be younger than them," said an official. "The transition period is likely to see someone from Tata coming in as the accountable manager and senior AI officials continuing to work in their current roles barring a few changes in no-operational side," said a person in the know. **-ET Online**

Cold day, cold wave conditions to grip Northwest

#NEW DELHI

The minimum temperatures in northwest and central India are likely to drop by three to five degrees Celsius over the next five days, leading to cold day conditions in Delhi and a cold wave in parts of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Maharashtra.

Cold day to severe cold day conditions are very likely over parts of Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Gujarat over the next two to three days, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Monday.

Cold wave to severe cold wave is very likely in isolated pockets of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, and Gujarat over the next five days.

Dense to very dense fog is predicted in parts of Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana, Delhi, Bihar, West Bengal, Odisha, Assam, Sikkim, Meghalaya and Tripura over the next two to three days, it said.

According to the IMD, a "cold day" is when the minimum temperature is less than 10 degrees Celsius and the maximum is at least 4.5 degrees Celsius below normal.

A "severe" cold day is when the maximum temperature is at least 6.5 notches below normal.

Dangerous to assume this is the endgame: WHO

#GENEVA

WORLD

The head of the World Health Organization is warning that conditions remain ideal for more coronavirus variants to emerge and says it's dangerous to assume omicron is the last one or that ``we are in the endgame,'' while saying the acute phase of the pandemic could still end this year _ if some key targets are met.

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO's director-general, laid out Monday an array of achievements and concerns in global health over issues like reducing tobacco use, fighting resistance to anti-microbial treatments, and risks of climate change on human health. But he said ``ending the acute phase of the pandemic must remain our collective priority.''

"There are different scenarios for how the pandemic could play out and how the acute phase could end. But it's dangerous to assume that omicron will be the last variant or that we are in the endgame,"Tedros told the start of a WHO executive board meeting this week. "On the contrary, globally, the conditions are ideal for more variants to emerge."

People walk past masks displayed for sale in St. Petersburg, Russia

But he insisted that ``we can end covid-19 as a global health emergency, and we can do it this year,'' by reaching goals like WHO's target to vaccinate 70 percent of the population of each country by the middle of this year, with a focus on people who are at the highest risk of covid, and improving testing and sequencing rates to track the virus and its emerging variants more closely.

"It's true that we will be living with covid for the foreseeable future and that we will need to learn to manage it through a sustained and integrated system for acute respiratory diseases`` to help prepare for future pandemics, he said. ``But learning to live with covid cannot mean that we give this virus a free ride. It cannot mean that we accept almost 50,000 deaths a week from a preventable and treatable disease.''

In stark terms, Tedros also appealed for strengthening WHO and increasing funding for it to help stave off health crises.

"Let me put it plainly: If the current funding model continues, WHOis being set up to fail. The paradigm shift in world health that is needed now must be matched by a paradigm shift in funding the world's health organization.'' **-AP**

HEALTH TIP: Broccoli contains plenty of fibre which is essential for a healthy digestive system and regular bowel movements

Chillies contain potassium, which helps control your blood pressure

BEST OF
DR MAHINDER WATSA

The finest responses of Dr Watsa are being republished in this column as a tribute to him.

1 I am a 25-year-old woman. My boyfriend and I had sex recently, and I bled a lot afterwards. I have always experienced pain during intercourse and post the act as well, but this was the first time that I bled so much. I am very worried. What, in your opinion, could be the reason for this? My LH hormone is high and I'm taking a tablet course for six months. Please help me find a solution.
It is unusual for bleeding to occur after intercourse. You need to visit a gynecologist to identify the cause.

2 I am an 18-year-old man. I have decided to undergo a circumcision for personal and family reasons. What I want to know is: Is there a quick and easy method that also causes less pain? How much time would it take to heal? Also, will the surgery be a costly affair? Please do let me know.
I am puzzled. What could be the family/personal reason for one to undergo circumcision? Circumcision is a simple procedure after which a person can walk home within a couple of hours and can resume his routine within two days. Complete healing will take around a fortnight. The cost depends upon various factors such as the hospital, surgeon's fee etc. A general hospital will be more economical.

3 I am 18 years old. My foreskin is too sensitive. Whenever I touch it, I experience a lot of pain. I am very worried about my sex life. I don't want my future partner to be upset with me. Please help solve my problem.
Visit your doctor who will identify the cause. It is likely that rather than touch, you must be trying to slip back the tight foreskin which causes the pain. This problem of tight foreskin can be corrected by a circumcision which is a simple operation.

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All you need to know about white patches

Canadian model Winnie Harlow

Dermatologist explains what the condition called vitiligo is

Ria Bhatia
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Skin is the largest organ of our body, which means it is bound to experience a slew of concerns over the course of life. Some of the skin issues can occur naturally due to many reasons. One such naturally occurring condition is the appearance of white patches on the skin.

White patches on the skin are a cause for concern, but with care and medication, one can manage it. More often than not, there are white patches on the face too and many fail to identify the condition and care for it accordingly. Clinically termed as 'Vitiligo', the condition refers to the development of small-to-big white patches on the face as well as other areas of the body.

Before jumping to any conclusion, it is important to understand the condition and get your skin examined by a dermatologist to confirm what you're going through. We speak to Bengaluru-based Dr. Janet Alexander Castelino, Head Dermatologist & Founder At Dermazeal Clinic, to understand vitiligo and the occurrence of these patches on the face better.

What Is Vitiligo?

"Vitiligo is an autoimmune condition of the skin caused by the body's defense mechanism mistakenly destroying melanocytes," shares Dr. Castelino. An error with the immune system causes it to attack melanocytes, the pigment producing cells responsible to produce melanin, which gives the skin its colour.

So, as the melanocytes are considerably low in the body and melanin is not adequate, the skin doesn't get an even tone throughout the face and body. This results in uneven white patches. "Those who suffer from this condition acquire milky-white areas on their skin that are depigmented. It's worthy to note that even the hair over these patches may turn white due to a lack of pigment cells in the hair follicle, a condition known as 'leukotrichia'", mentions Dr. Castelino.

What Causes Vitiligo?

"Vitiligo is a skin condition that can affect any area of the body and is classified as such. It might manifest as patches over a few areas (focal vitiligo), patches over the face, arms, and legs (acrofacial vitiligo), all over the body with only a few areas of normally pigmented skin (universal vitiligo), or only one section of the body (segmental vitiligo).

New patches in an affected individual can occur over sites of pressure or injury caused by sharp-toothed combs, tight shoes, sitting cross-legged on the floor, kneeling, and wearing tight wristwatches. They can also occur during periods of emotional stress," shares Dr. Castelino.

While most of the time it's an error with the immune system that causes this condition, there are other factors that can contribute too. Some common causes are ageing, sun exposure and UV damage. These factors can also cause a depletion in the melanocytes, resulting in white patches on the face and the body.

Are All White Patches On The Skin Vitiligo?

Now that we know about the condition and the potential causes, it is important to understand that not all the white patches on the face and body are essentially vitiligo. "Both depigmented (entirely white) and hypopigmented (lighter than the surrounding skin) patches on the skin might be vitiligo look-alikes.

Based on the clinical history, examination, and relevant tests, a dermatologist can distinguish vitiligo from other conditions such as Idiopathic Guttate Hypomelanosis, Nevus depigmentosus (usually noted at birth or early childhood), Pityriasis Alba (which usually occurs in children with atopic dermatitis), Lichen Sclerosus, and Nevus Anemicus (patch appears at birth or in early childhood and is due to vasoconstriction)," confirms Dr. Castelino.

Here's How You Can Differentiate And Identify

"Vitiligo is typically diagnosed clinically, which means that a dermatologist can usually diagnose the disorder simply by looking at it. However, there are a few instruments that can assist the dermatologist in the clinic, such as a Woods Lamp, which is a small hand-held device that generates UVA light, causing the white patches to emit a bright bluish-white fluorescence in a dark room.

A dermoscopy, another hand-held device, shows the 'glow' of white areas indicating that the patch is vitiligo. A skin biopsy may be required on rare occasion," shares Dr. Castelino.

Remedies For Vitiligo

If you think vitiligo is a condition that you have to necessarily live with forever, you are wrong. While you must learn to embrace your skin the way it is, there are always medical and clinical solutions for everything including the white patches on your face. Speaking of vitiligo, you can take oral medications, steroids and topical products after speaking to your doctor. "Vitiligo can be treated in a variety of ways, depending on the type, location, and extent of the patches.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Is Vitiligo A Serious Disease?
- Besides the white patches on the face and the body indicating uneven skin tone and discolouration, vitiligo is nothing to be afraid of. It doesn't pose any threat to your health.

What Triggers Vitiligo?
- Most common triggers of vitiligo include genetics, neurogenic factors, any autoimmune disease and chemical exposure. However, sunburns and stress could also contribute to a surge.

How Can Vitiligo Be Prevented?
- While there's no hard and fast rule or prevention criteria, you can always limit your sun exposure. Applying a minimum of SPF 40 is a smart idea and re-apply it time and again during the day. You can re-apply SPF in many ways by opting for SPF-infused face powders and facial sprays if you don't feel comfortable re-wearing sunscreen often.

How Can You Stop Vitiligo From Spreading?
- You must visit a dermatologist as soon as you spot the first signs of the appearance of any white patches on the face and body, take the correct medication and control the spread.

Best Skincare Tip For Vitiligo?
- Anyone with vitiligo or white patches on the face must ensure their skincare routine is packed with antioxidant-rich ingredients like aloe vera and vitamin C. Additionally, it is of paramount importance to apply a high SPF sunscreen to protect the skin from any further damage. If you're applying a vitamin C serum or toner, make sure you layer it with sunscreen without fail. You must visit a dermatologist as soon as you spot the first signs of the appearance of any white patches on the face and body, take the correct medication.

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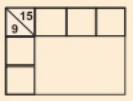
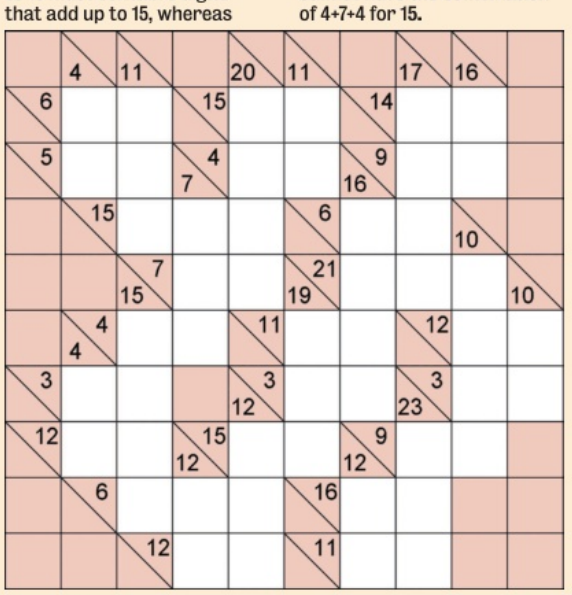
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

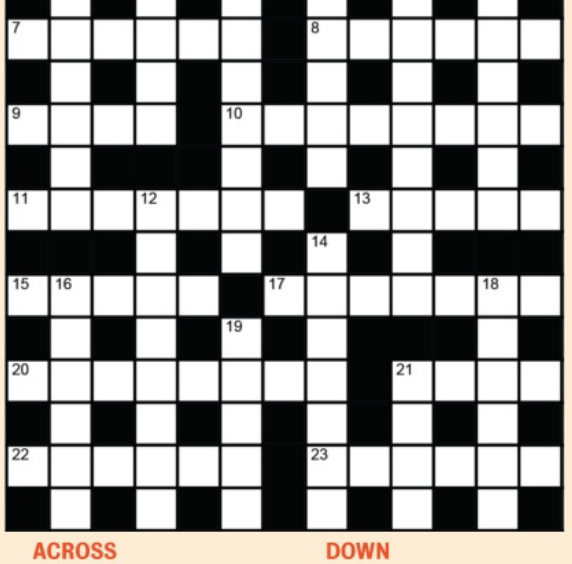


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Body decoration (6)
8 Child's coloured pencil (6)
9 SI unit of power (4)
10 Situation lacking definition (4,4)
11 Knocking vigorously (7)
13 Tastelessly showy (5)
15 Hinge (5)
17 News (7)
20 Abruptly (8)
21 Be employed (4)
22 Withheld or saved (6)
23 Olympic gold medallist ___ Chopra (6)

DOWN

1 African desert (6)
2 No dele for the printer (4)
3 Smith's work (7)
4 Land measure (5)
5 Famous World War I spy (4,4)
6 Russian coin (6)
12 Those who walk doggedly or laboriously (8)
14 Cleaning up (7)
16 Falls near Rajiv Gandhi National Park (6)
18 Nuremberg native (6)
19 Maliciously derogatory (5)
21 At which time? (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: K EQUALS G

E URXXOYK GWRYM KEWCMUG YR LRGG, ASW OW KEOYG E FMUWEOY BRXOGC.

Linemaro

Are you a parking ticket? Because you've got FINE written all over you.

Mindchow

Monday is the root of all evil

Joke of the day

One of the advantages bowling has over golf is that you seldom lose a bowling ball

Loop

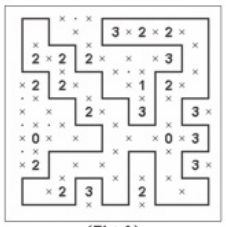
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

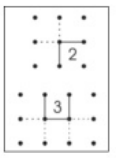
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

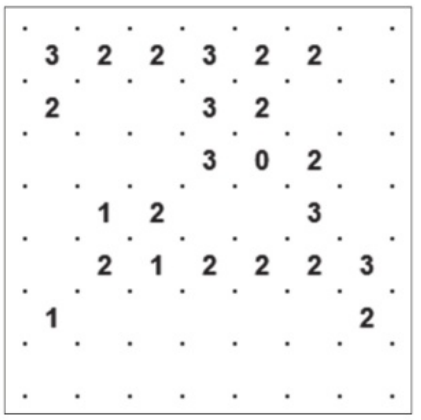
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



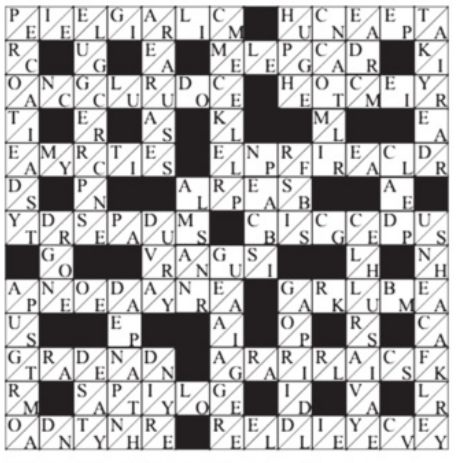
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



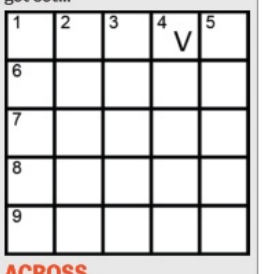
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

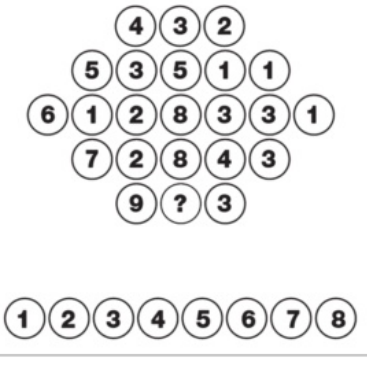
1 Carve; 6 Peary; 7 Tuile; 8 Emirs; 9 Baths

DOWN

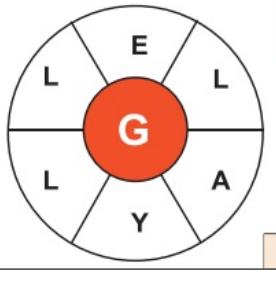
1 Mr Cub; 2 Irate; 3 Aphis; 4 At lev; 5 Y seer

Mensapuzzle

Which circle replaces the question mark?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

02 Average; 03 Good; 04 Outstanding

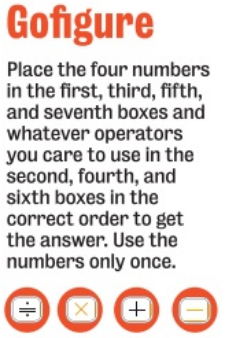
SudokuChallenge

9								2
			8		7			
	4	7	9	5	3	1	8	
		2		9		6		
	6	1				2	4	
		8		4		7		
	1	9	6	7	2	5	3	
			4		8			
7								1

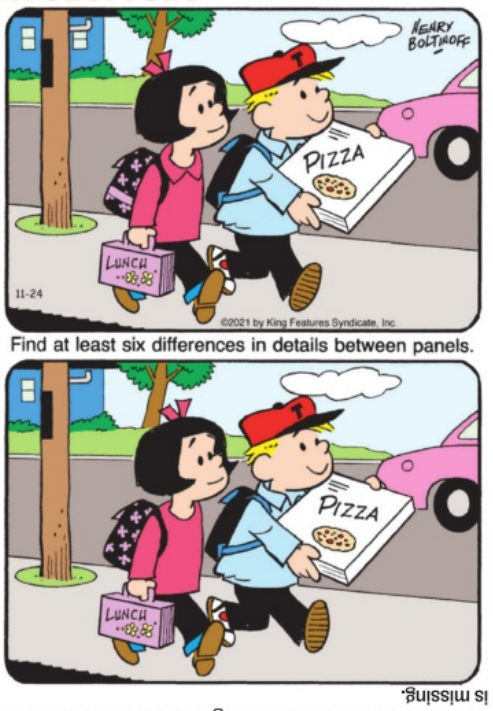
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

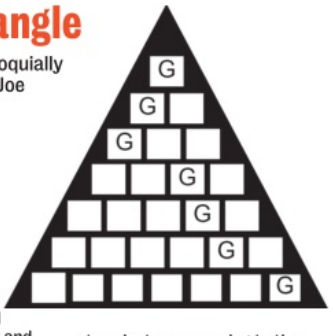
Differences: 1. Leg is moved. 2. Word is moved. 3. Backpack is different. 4. Window is missing. 5. Bow is moved. 6. Collar is missing.

Riddler

Coloured as a maiden tweaked, Time was naught when I began; Through the garden I was sneaked, I alone am the fall of man. What am I?

Alpha triangle

1 One Thousand colloquially
2 American soldier Joe
3 Cotton separator
4 Write one's name
5 Burn slightly
6 Pattern
7 Dispatching



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

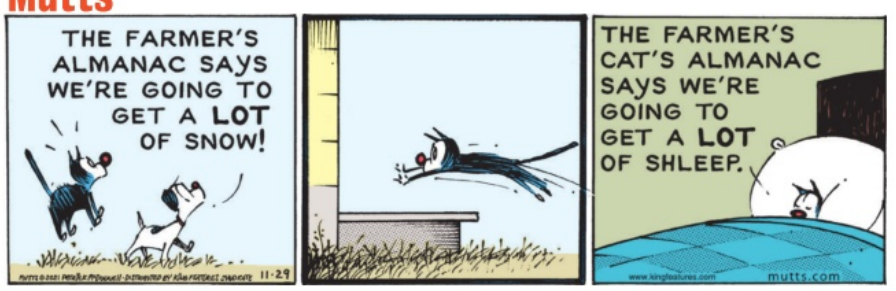
Hart of the city

MOM, ARE WE POOR?
COUGH!? UHH? YES AND NO? WHY DO YOU ASK?
DANA HAS A HUGE BACKYARD, AND A TRAMPOLINE!
I HOPE THIS DOESN'T MEAN YOU WANT A TRAMPOLINE.
I HAVE EYES! MY ROOM ISN'T BIG ENOUGH YET.
YET??

Crankshaft

OKAY, THE HALO LIGHT IS SET...
NOW ALL WE NEED TO DO IS PLUG IN THIS SPECIAL CONDENSER MICROPHONE AND YOU'LL BE THE STAR OF THE BOOK PANEL!
MAYBE DRIVING TO SEATTLE FOR THE BOOK PANEL WOULD HAVE BEEN EASIER.
BATIUK & DAVIS

Mutts


THE FARMER'S ALMANAC SAYS WE'RE GOING TO GET A LOT OF SNOW!
THE FARMER'S CAT'S ALMANAC SAYS WE'RE GOING TO GET A LOT OF SHLEEP.
mutts.com

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you are blessed by the moon and may be able to make quick decisions on the professional front. You can expect new opportunities in business, which may boost your confidence. You are likely to pursue innovation with your partner, which may boost your business in the near future.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you are blessed by the moon and may perform well at work. You may expect some promotions or gains. You may plan to change your job. Your relationship with your boss may improve now. Chronic health issues will get resolved. This may make your family happy.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, things will be under control. It is a good day for you and you will enjoy your work. Your focus on your goals and work will be good too. This will reflect in your way of working. Your wisdom will help you to make difficult decisions in your profession. Past investments will start paying off now, so you may expect some gains.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you may face disappointment regarding your position at work or home. You may not enjoy any moment. You may spend hard earned money on worthless stuff, which may affect your savings. You may plan to migrate from your current place. Take care of your parents' health.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you may make decisions fast, which may benefit your day-to-day life. You may make difficult decisions with the help of your colleagues and may succeed easily. Property-related disputes between siblings may get resolved. You can also expect short trips.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
It is advised that you control your tongue despite your straight forward instincts or it may affect the people around you. You may spend hard earned money on worthless stuff. Your mind may work very fast. It is advised that you make any important decisions with patience.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you are blessed by the moon. The last couple of days may have been filled with disappointment but you will experience happiness now. You may enjoy your professional and personal life. Your network may help you to complete postponed projects. You may start a new venture with the help of your siblings and your network may support you at every step.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today you may sense negativity. You may feel impatient. Focus on your goals is likely to be lost. You may face losses in your business or your work may suffer as the pace of your projects will slow down. You may also notice a detachment from your responsibilities, which may affect your daily routine.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you are blessed by the moon. New sources of income may open up. Past investments will start paying off in terms of profits. Your losses will convert into profits, which will boost your financial health. Health issues related to parents may get resolved.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you may implement your business plans with the help of your strong network. You may receive a big order with the help of wisdom. You may enjoy a good understanding with your spouse, which may boost harmony in your domestic life. Love birds may enjoy happy moments.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
A messy situation, troubling you in the last couple of days, will now be under control. You are blessed by the moon . You may initiate postponed works. With blessings, you may get rewarded for your hard work. Some gains from your business may boost your finances. You may spend money on artefacts or literature. You may also plan overseas trips.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you may not feel well and might have health issues. This may affect your professional and domestic life. You may be upset due to your spouse's health issues. Your patience may be tested many times. You are advised against investing in any new business projects, otherwise you may face losses. Students must avoid fantasizing and must work hard, and study.

KIDZONE

Vinod Raj, 14 Years, Saroja Memorial English School

Sher Singh, 14 Years, SVVP English School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
sqrt(.25)=.5
1/.5+1/.5=
2+2=
4

BULL'S EYE
gale, galley, legal, LEGALLY

STRIKE OUT

P	I	L	G	R	I	M	U	N	A	P	T			
R	U	E	E	L	G	A	R	I						
O	C	C	L	U	D	E	H	O	M	E	R			
T	E	S	K	M	E									
E	Y	R	I	E	E	N	F	I	E	L	D			
S	N	A	R	A	B	A		A						
T	R	E	A	D	S	B	I	C	E	P	S			
A	N	O	D	Y	N	E	A	R	U	B	A			
S	E	I	P	S	C									
T	R	E	A	D	G	A	R	I	C	K				
S	U	D	D	E	N	L	Y	W	O	R	K			
P	I	V	O	T	T	I	D	I	N	G	S			
R	A	P	P	I	N	G	T	A	C	K	Y			
W	A	T	T	G	R	E	Y	A	R	E	A			
H	E	R	R	T	P									
T	A	T	O	C	R	A	V	O	N					
S	P	A	R	E	D	N	E	E	R	A	J			
S	E	G	N											

QUICK

S	S	E	F	A	M	C								
U	S	E	D											
S	E	D												
E	D													
D														

MENSA PUZZLE
6. Looking at the diagram in rows, the central circle equals half the sum of the numbers in the other circles to the left and right of the centre.

SUDOKU

9	8	5	1	6	4	3	7	2
1	3	6	8	2	7	4	9	5
2	4	7	9	5	3	1	8	6
4	7	2	3	9	1	6	5	8
3	6	1	7	8	5	2	4	9
8	1	9	6	7	2	5	3	4
5	9	8	2	4	6	7	1	3
6	5	3	4	1	8	9	2	7
7	2	4	5	3	9	8	6	1

ALPHA TRIANGLE
G, GI, GIN, SIGN, SIGNAGE, DESIGN, SENDING.

LOOP

GO FIGURE
Easy
8 + 5 − 6 + 6 = 13
Medium
7 x 3 + 2 x 1 = 23
Hard
9 / 9 + 3 + 8 = 12

KAKURO

RIDDLER An apple

QUOTE UNCODE
A rolling stone gathers no moss, but it gains a certain polish.

FAST FIVE

C	R	A	V	E
R	E	P	A	Y
U	T	I	L	E
M	I	S	E	R
B	A	H	T	S

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Social media exploded after a cameraman aired visuals of Anushka-Virat's little one

Anushka Sharma and Virat Kohli's fans were treated to the first photos and videos of Vamika Kohli.

The cutie joined her mommy as they turned cheerleaders for Virat during the ongoing India-South Africa cricket series. On Sunday evening, during the broadcast of the cricket match, the camera lingered on the mother-daughter duo for a few seconds, before cutting to visuals from the pitch.

Screengrabs from the video with the daughter's face soon went viral on Twitter, and #VamikaKohli took over top trends in the country.

Fans of the star couple, aware of how fiercely guarded they have been regarding the privacy of their child, took to social media to troll the cameraman who 'dared' to broadcast visuals of the toddler. Many took to their handles to lighten up the mood and share hilarious Bollywood inspired memes.

Besides having a field day at the cameraman's expense, many also shared memes imagining Anushka's reaction to the viral photos.

Sharma, on Monday, took to Instagram and posted a statement, writing that they were unaware that the camera was on them.

"Hi guys! We realise that our daughter's images were captured at the stadium yesterday and widely shared thereafter. We want to inform everyone that we were caught off guard and didn't know that the camera was on us."

"Our stance and request on the matter stay the same. We would really appreciate it if Vamika's images are not clicked/ published for reasons we have explained earlier. Thank you," she wrote.

The couple had earlier urged the paparazzi to refrain from clicking pictures of their daughter and said in a statement that they have decided to not "expose" the child to social media.

Sandalwood bounces back

The Kannada film industry, which had suffered a setback after the imposition of a weekend curfew, is showing signs of revival after the state government announced that it was withdrawing the move. Sandalwood is abuzz all over again. New projects are being flagged off and the new release dates of big movies, which had been deferred, have been announced. Most of the theatres across the state, which had been closed for two weeks because of Covid-19 restrictions following the third wave, are all set to reopen and welcome audiences. The state government is permitting only 50 per cent occupancy at present. Sources in the film industry and in the state government, however, said that 100 per cent occupancy will be allowed by the next weekend.

This news has galvanised Sandalwood. 'DNA', a Kannada movie directed by Prakashraj Mehu and produced by Mylari, is releasing this week. After raising much curiosity because of its name, the film, which was to be released two weeks earlier, had been deferred. Director Prakashraj Mehu stated that they are releasing the movie in about 100 theatres and the team is focusing on multiplexes. 'Obhattane Dikku', one of the big movies starring Yogesh, is all set to be released on Jan 28. Dayalan Padmanbhan is the director and Adithi Prabhudeva the heroine. Industry sources say that big movies will queue up for release if this film gets a good start at the box office.

'Love Mocktail 2', with Darling Krishna and Milana, the pan-India movie 'Banaras', director Prem's 'Ek Love Ya', the Ramesh-starrer 'Shivaji Surathkal', Rakshith Shetty's '777 Charlie', 'Oldmonk' with Srinivas and Adithi Prabhudeva, Darling Krishna's 'Dil Pasand', and 'Avatarapurusha' featuring Sharan are the big releases in the queue.

The state government has said it would take a call on the reopening of schools in Bengaluru on January 29.

—IANS

Getaway girl!

Bollywood actress Katrina Kaif often shares happy moments and snippets on her Instagram handle for which she enjoys a massive fan following. Having said that, the actress recently shared a bunch of adorable moments, from a beach getaway.
In the pictures, the actress was seen donning one of her brightest smiles, as the breeze played with her hair. She pulled off a dreamy tropical shirt with elegance, which was teamed with a pair of floral printed shorts. She surely looked like a vision to behold.

Strike a pose

Deepika Padukone, Ananya Panday and Siddhant Chaturvedi were spotted in the city on Monday evening. The trio stepped out to promote their upcoming film 'Gehraiyaan'. Recently, they wowed everyone with the intense and intriguing trailer of the film.

In the pictures, Deepika made heads turn in a tangerine cutout bodycon dress featuring a thigh-high slit. She styled the outfit with golden hoop earrings and black heels. The dimpled beauty was seen flashing her million-dollar smile while posing for the paparazzi.

Her co-star Ananya opted for a chic look. She rocked a maroon bandeau top with beige trousers and strappy heels.

Keeping it minimal, she completed her out with layered necklaces and bold makeup. Last but not the least, Siddhant looked dapper in his semi-formal look as he posed with his leading ladies. The trio was accompanied by their director Shakun Batra. **–ETimes**

Akshay's ₹7.8-cr home

Akshay Kumar, who recently was seen holidaying with his family in 'Ranthambore', has bought a lavish flat in Mumbai. Akshay and Twinkle Khanna currently stay in Mumbai's Juhu area, having a sea-facing duplex. According to the latest reports, Akshay has now bought a swanky apartment worth Rs. 7.84 crore.

The reports also suggest that his new apartment comes with four car parks. It is being said that the actor's new nest is located on the 19th floor of the Joy Legend building in Mumbai's Khar West. A report in Money Control suggests that the property was registered on January 7 this year.

On the work front, Akshay has a solid lineup of films ahead. He was recently seen in 'Atrangi Re' with Sara Ali Khan and Dhanush. He also has 'Ram Setu' with Jacqueline Fernandez and Nushrratt Bharuccha. Apart from this, he will be seen in 'Prithviraj' with Manushi Chhillar. He recently announced the new release date of 'Bachchan Pandey' starring Jacqueline and Kriti Sanon. His movie list also includes 'Selfiee' with Emraan Hashmi, 'Oh My God 2' with Pankaj Tripathi, 'Gorkha' and 'Cinderella'. **–ETimes**